GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Diversion of 44.52 ha of forest land in Vizianagaram for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors and feeder routes and Coastal road primarily to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh under Bharatmala Pariyojana in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vizianagaram – Stage-II (Final) approval accorded.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.16 **Dated.15.03.2023**

Read the following:-

1) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15034/27/2020/FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dt.28.01.2022.
2) State Govt.Letter No.178/Sec.II/2022/(1629500), EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.08.02.2022.
3) From GoI, MoEF&CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.F.No.4-APA144/2022-Vij/161, dt.30.03.2022.
4) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15034/27/2020-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dt.12.08.2022.
5) State Govt.Lr.No.178/Sec.II/2022/1629500, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.23.08.2022.
6) From the GoI, MoEF&CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.F.No.4-APA144/2022-VIJ/597, dt.31.10.2022.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal for diversion of 44.52 ha of forest land in Vizianagaram for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors and feeder routes and Coastal road primarily to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh under Bharatmala Pariyojana in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vizianagaram and requested to take necessary action under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, for its approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions stipulated therein.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has furnished compliance report on the Stage-I conditions and requested to forward the same to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada to accord (Stage-II) Final approval to the proposal. Accordingly, State Government have forwarded compliance report to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada for according (Stage-II) Final approval for the proposal vide letter in the 5th read above.

5. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, have accorded (Stage-II) Final approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 44.52 ha of forest land in Vizianagaram for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors and feeder routes and Coastal road primarily to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh under Bharatmala Pariyojana in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vizianagaram, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

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6. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 44.52 ha of forest land in Vizianagaram for development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors and feeder routes and Coastal road primarily to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Visakhapatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh under Bharatmala Pariyojana in favour of Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vizianagaram, subject to the following conditions:-

i. Legal status of the Forest land shall remain unchanged.

ii. Demarcation of the proposed Forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User agency. Certain patches of the forest area proposed for diversion is abutting to non-forest area. Hence, the State Forest Department shall ensure demarcation of Forest area to be diverted properly to avoid encroachments;

iii. The State Forest Department shall carry out Compensatory afforestation in identified degraded forest land over an extent of 90.22 hectares in the below mentioned compartments, at the cost of the user agency;

Sl. No.	Range	Name of the RF	Compartment. No.	Area in ha.
1	Vizianagaram	Damarasingi	249	20.36
2	Vizianagaram	Poolbagh	254	25.02
3	Parvathipuram	Shikaruganj	169	10.50
4	Parvathipuram	Shikaruganj	171	10.00
5	Parvathipuram	Samgamvalasa	201	14.79
6	Saluru	Thaduru (P-A)	388	3.18
7	Saluru	Thaduru (P-B)		6.37
		Total :		**90.22**

iv. The State Forest Department shall ensure required number of plants to be raised in the degraded Forest area as per the MoEF&CC guidelines & keeping in view prescriptions in the working plan and may include activities like fencing, if required in the CA scheme to avoid biotic pressure;

v. The State Forest Department shall demarcate CA land suitably for the purpose of identification of the plots for future monitoring purpose by the IRO, Vijayawada and the State Forest Department shall ensure regular monitoring of the CA plantation to achieve successful plantation;

vi. Degraded forest land identified for CA purpose and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government.

vii. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land, if any becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the user agency.

viii. Wildlife Mitigation plan approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden shall be implemented by the State Forest Department from the amount which has already been realized from the user agency. Detailed report on implementation of Wildlife Mitigation plan shall be informed to the IRO, Vijayawada regularly along with the supporting documents.

ix. The user Agency shall raise and maintain avenue plantation on both sides of the road in consultation with D.F.O. concerned.

x. The User agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the District Forest Officer concerned, at the project cost;

xi. Construction of Culverts / bridges, if any over the natural streams/rivers/canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of

(Contd.P.3)

water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of Wild animals.

xii. Road side cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the District Forest Officer concerned so as to stabilize the soil ;

xiii. Tree felling shall be carried out wherever necessary under strict supervision of District Forest Officer concerned and the UA may carryout translocation of trees wherever feasible at the project cost;

xiv. The dug out material/ over burden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area.

xv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.

xvi. The User agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area.

xvii. Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna ;

xviii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 44.52 ha and the forest area diverted shall not used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.

xix. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or subject to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

xx. The User agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

xxi. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User agency;

xxii. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPCIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road,
Vijayawada-520010

The Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Plot No.149/150, KVR Estate, Koradepeta,
Near Chelluru Junction, Vizianagaram-535004.

SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER